



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Friday April 24, 2020 - Call Summary - Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development Secretary

Good evening,

Friday's call discussed updates on the Administration's COVID-19 response, federal legislation authorizing additional funding for SBA relief programs, Massachusetts legislation offering protections from evictions to residential and commercial tenants, and the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.

My team will be closely tracking the implementation of this second round of SBA relief programs. We will endeavor to get you the best information we can, as soon as we can, on these resources and others. As you know, the PPP program offers unique relief for small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. I urge you to continue to do all you can to help small businesses apply for this program.

Please find a summary of yesterday's conversation and key resources below.

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ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR SBA RELIEF PROGRAMS

Yesterday, the President signed new legislation to provide relief and stimulus in light of COVID-19. This legislation is a \$484B package, which will replenish the dollars in the SBA's PPP and EIDL programs, as well as provide additional funding for hospitals and coronavirus testing.

The **Paycheck Protection Program** will receive an additional \$310B to offer relief to small businesses. Of this total, \$60B will be set aside to fund PPP loans made by small and community financial institutions to reach underbanked communities. We will share additional information on which financial institutions are eligible for this set aside funding as it becomes available.

Next steps for businesses:

- [The SBA will accept PPP applications from lenders beginning Monday, April 27th at 10:30 am.](#) It is critically important that we all encourage the small businesses in our communities to work with their lender to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program as soon as possible. Businesses can access the SBA's [Find A Lender](#) tool or consult the SBA Massachusetts District Office's [list of participating Paycheck Protection Program lenders](#).
- [The SBA will offer virtual sessions to support small businesses all week.](#) Sign up for [SBA email updates](#) to receive notice of these programs. Businesses should also consult [SBA Resource Partners](#), who offer remote counseling and coaching.

- Refer any small businesses in need of application translation services to Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC)'s [online resources](#). This website provides a list of technical assistance providers who can help businesses apply for PPP in languages other than English.
- As discussed, Congress has set aside \$60 billion in the second round of funding of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to be administered by small lenders and community banks—exact details have yet to be released. Using SBA data, HED has published [this list](#) of institutions that provided loans to Massachusetts companies in the first round of the Paycheck Protection Program. The list also includes all entities that appeared on the [SBA's approved lenders list](#), which was last updated on April 13, 2020. Lenders on this list are categorized by asset level, so businesses can easily identify which institutions will be eligible for the \$60 billion carveout. We have also noted which of these lenders are state chartered institutions. We will update this list as we become aware of additional approved lenders.
- My office will keep you closely apprised as additional guidance and information is available.

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) and EIDL Loan Advance offerings have also received additional funding through this legislation, totaling \$60B (\$50B for the EIDL program and \$10B for the Loan Advance). We will provide additional information as it becomes available.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS AND FORECLOSURES DURING COVID-19

This week, Governor Baker signed a [bill](#) establishing a moratorium on non-essential evictions and residential foreclosures. This law provides temporary protections for both residential tenants and small businesses that are unable to pay rent, in an effort to stabilize homes and commercial spaces during the COVID-19 crisis. The law also prohibits proceedings on residential foreclosures during the COVID-19 crisis.

- While this bill does not relieve a residential or commercial tenant of their responsibility to pay their rent or mortgage, it does offer protection for those who are unable to make these payments as result of the economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 crisis.
- Under this legislation, a landlord cannot file a complaint in court to evict an eligible small business for a non-essential purpose (i.e. a purpose that does not pose a health or safety risk). Eligible small businesses are businesses which operate only in Massachusetts, have 150 or fewer employees, and are not publicly traded. This moratorium will last for either four months following the bill's signing on April 20, 2020, or until 45 days after the emergency declaration expires (whichever is sooner, and unless extended by the Governor).
- The new law does not eliminate or reduce an obligation to pay rent. Businesses that are able to pay rent should continue to do so, and should work collaboratively with their landlords when they are unable to pay rent due.
- Under this legislation, landlords may not apply late fees or negatively report to credit bureaus if the tenant sends a timely notice that the non-payment of rent was the result of a financial hardship caused by COVID-19. Evictions may still proceed when a tenant's lease violation creates a health or safety risk for others.

Eligible small businesses can use the **Form of Notice – COVID-19 Hardship – Small Business Tenant** and the **Documentation of Financial Hardship – Small Business Tenant** forms to provide the required notice to their landlord of their inability to pay rent. Access these forms and Emergency Regulations [here](#).

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Live

As Secretary Acosta noted yesterday, the Department of Unemployment Assistance (DUA) announced the launch of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program on 4/20. PUA provides payment to workers not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits (self-employed, independent contractors, workers with limited work history, and others) who are unable to work as a direct result of the coronavirus public health emergency. Workers who have previously exhausted their UI benefits may access Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) by applying for PUA.

- Read about PUA here: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-pandemic-unemployment-assistance>
- Apply for PUA benefits here: <https://ui-cares-act.mass.gov/PUA/? ga=2.207742354.100715919.1587389837-900809567.1584140223>

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All, my continued thanks for your efforts on behalf of our small business community.

Best,

Mike

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